

...s musing at her win-
...plain where Father
Indeed, the youthful
attention for nothing
...t whether the chang-
...ing of his fair chor-
...selves to him. He
...ay, after the strict dis-
...out apparently notic-
...him. So it happens
...esper-hymn of a Sab-
...melodious notes, while
...ve contralto becomes
...e neglect of all those
...e ministered to her
...tide of life in health-
...tells upon one whose
...o been the prime con-

...wear slowly on, the
...Athanasia takes on
...organ-loft, the droop
...more clearly defined,
...and upon the rail has
...nure. The rich color
...beneath the damask
...a permanent pallor ;
...more sharply over the
...cret which she scarce-
...which, buried in the
...among the ruins of
...out a few weeks since,
...e father, now seek his
...erness in their lumi-
...watches every grace-
...frame, and drinks in
...oice ! How she pours
...s, so simple, so touch-
...forth such a soul of
...that every listener is
...n and woe-begone she
...and she turns away
...heart has been cheated
...of its bitterness !

...the Mission of White-
...threatened inroad of
...dic parishioners warn
...ts, his light gun and
...e fire of some lurking
...st never for a moment
...strange coleoptera and
...extent of his wander-
...nat ; but the *soutane*
...ceted shooting-coat to
...wearer.

...be known that Father
...al quest, and the dim
...urn. The scared pa-
...ot by the chapel, and
...probable wanderings.
...ve the white bands of
...ly upon the veranda of
...ight-shadows are rap-

idly falling, blending all objects in a vague, indefi-
nite outline. Out upon the plain a faint, almost im-
perceptible thread of umber marks the horizon-line.
The evening wind sighs over the level expanse, bend-
ing the tall grasses with a mournful rustle ; and the
wild-birds pass and repass with plaintive cry over
the sedges which form their summer home. Sudden-
ly the outline of a man is projected into the gloom—
a man running with rapid and eager strides toward
the chapel. Straight in he comes with slowly-de-
creasing rapidity of footstep, his slender form thrown
forward, and the marks of exhaustion visible in his
flagging gait. As he nears the inclosure, a second
figure, more clearly cut, more sharply defined in its
semi-nudity, rises from the wild-grasses. A resonant
twang sweeps by on the night-wind, as the shadowy
form sinks back invisibly to the earth again ; the
swift runner pauses a moment in his rapid flight,
throws his arms wildly above his head, staggers fee-
bly, then falls upon his face to the ground. The
long grasses close over his form, shimmering and
bending beneath the breeze, and inexplicable lone-
liness again broods over the plain.

The little knot of parishioners, dazed by the sud-
den spectacle, regard each other in a stunned way
devoid of vocal expression. They are scarcely con-

scious of the flitting of a woman's form across the
churchyard and out through the long herbage of the
plain—a form which throws itself wildly upon that
other shadowy outline lying upon the dank grass,
calling upon it in tender tones, caressing it with fond
touches. How it pleads for its love ! With what a
yearning tenderness it pillows the pale face upon its
bosom, and calls upon the fainting spirit to return to
life, to love ! What a pathos is there in the soft
hands parting the hair from the damp brow, and
what infinite affection in the luminous eyes ! How
she wraps the slender form in her strong arms, and
showers kisses upon the pale lips ! What a depth
of misery in the plaintive wail that her love is dead !
What a joyous, triumphant hope upon her glorious
face when returning life flickers up through the ash-
en death-hues !

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My lord the bishop comes up the next day from
the episcopal palace, and Father Paul is carried away
to be nursed back to life and vigor. A light wagon,
with an appropriate cover of inky blackness, and
convoys by stern old Father Antoine and the two
dragons, journeys with Sister Athanasia toward the
Convent of the Sacred Heart.